



Shreveport/Bossier African-American Chamber of Commerce

1315 Milam Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101 318-220-9098

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

April 6, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Attracting new businesses to our area and helping existing businesses grow are key functions of the Shreveport/Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce. A critical component of these economic development objectives is access to high-speed broadband services. Many of our members are small businesses, and some are family-run companies. Skillful use of the Internet enables them to market their products and services across the state, across the nation and even across the world! The more competitive and more successful they become, more employees they hire. And that's good news for the local economy and nation.

It is vital that our African American owned businesses continue to have access to advanced services at reasonable prices. Businesses that have recently realized the power of the Internet have the most to lose if unnecessary regulatory policies force the price of Internet access services to rise. Many small companies will be forced to give up their broadband services in order to cut their costs.

The Shreveport/Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce believe the Federal Communications Commission should have a focus on reaching a goal of 100 percent broadband adoption instead of creating rules and regulations that could and will discourage investment and innovation.

Increasing the number of businesses that get on line should be primary your proposed "net neutrality" rules will have the opposite effect and will potentially drive small businesses off line. Furthermore, your decisions concerning this rule and regulation could make it even more unlikely that small companies without Internet access today will be able to afford broadband services and compete in the global marketplace.

We urge you to carefully consider any decision that would negatively impact our nation's goal of providing broadband access to every American.

Sincerely,

Booker White
Chairman of the Board

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